



State is requested to take a hand in this effort, and that every Farmers' Institute and Club be invited to bring up this subject in their meetings, and to do all they can in carrying out this proposed action.

Resolved, That the name of the farmers of the State of Massachusetts, Long for these words of good cheer which he spoke to the members of the Board of Agriculture, at Bridgewater, will speak well.

"I do not think the State has done enough to help the farmers, and I do not think we can do enough to promote the interests of agriculture. I believe the State is ready to do a good and useful work in the promotion of agriculture in the State, and on the part of farmers in a generous spirit."

And that we now look confidently to him for the promotion of legislation touching the interests of our agriculture.

The members elect of the Legislature present were then called up. V. M. Farnsworth, of Worcester, on Agriculture; and, explained that he had all property taxed, including churches and schools, and would repeat the law passed by the Legislature.

"I do not think the State has done enough to help the farmers, and I do not think we can do enough to promote the interests of agriculture. I believe the State is ready to do a good and useful work in the promotion of agriculture. The assignment of a small sum to the Permanent Fund in the State Budget will make a solid support that will make the promises of our wise and peremptory. It will be an honor to the cause of Agriculture to the latest generations.

### THE MASSACHUSETTS STATE GRANGE.

This body, of the Order of the Patrons of Husbandry, assembled in its ninth annual session, according to official notice, at Insurance Hall, in the city of Worcester, on Tuesday, and continued its meeting for three days. The attendance was very full and enthusiastic, the sisters as well as the brothers appearing in large numbers, and imparting to the assembly with the usual a truly animated appearance. It was a most encouraging sight, promising new things for the future of the "Grange" of Massachusetts.

The meeting was called at 12 o'clock, A. M., by Brother James Draper, Master of the State Grange. An address of welcome was made by Brother C. L. Harshorn, Master of the Worcester Grange, which was the second in a pecuniary manner. Master Harshorn indulged in a graphic historical sketch of Worcester from its early settlement as a town, which was listened to with much interest. It progressed to the present condition of the city, and the growth and development of the rural people were shown more than their share. One remedy would be the casting of the burden of maintaining schools upon the Committee of Education, and the promotion of ideas advanced by a former Senator from Greenfield and urged to.

Geo. F. Carpenter of Sturbridge spoke but against the proposed taxation, taking the ground that the last legislature did the right and proper thing in relieving property from double burden of taxes.

Land and a resolution in favor of sustaining the Agricultural College was unanimously adopted.

The next meeting of the Institute was appointed for December 31st, in the Green Jury Room of the Court House, the subject for discussion to be "Hogs." - Greenfield.

### The Ploughman.

BOSTON, SATURDAY, DEC. 24, 1881.

#### CHRISTMAS.

To-morrow is Christmas Day. Its popular, as well as the ecclesiastical, observance has from time immemorial begun on the eve of the Day, and not on the Day itself. The winter season of social gaiety and innocent hilarity. It was natural that the time should be especially sacred to the divine-human reflection of the holy infant that was cradled in a manger. All is fresh and new again. The world is another world for the time. Freshness and innocence are its chief expression. On this Day was born Immanuel, and mankind was given the knowledge of its priceless inheritance.

It has become by the force of custom and tradition the day for the giving of gifts, and for the exchange of friendly and cordial friendship.

Heaven has made again with the tokens that express the feeling of the time. Sunshine, as we be with us the sunshines of Winter, enters all homes and warms all hearts. The gladness of children fills all the rooms with the voices of happiness and the echoes of merry delight. We know from the kindling of young eyes, that the weary and worn past is put away, and that all the time of the year at least, are become fresh and new.

It is time to underestimate the value of the likehoods of Christ, or of the beneficially sweet influence which follows in its train. Heaven does not send mankind such a sacred Anniversary to be treated with indifference. If it did not have a deep and lasting significance, that takes hold of the life and love of people, beginning with children and running through the varied course of their lives, it would never have taken such a lasting hold on human experience and long ago secured the promise of perpetuity. Let us all make the most of the day. All the friends and association have endowed to all hearts, Let us exchange our gifts freely, and renew and make fresh the family and social friendship which clothe life with all its visible charms.

#### MASSACHUSETTS AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE.

##### Trustees' Meeting.

The Trustees of the Massachusetts Agricultural College held a special meeting at Amherst on Friday, December 16th inst., the following members of the Board being present: Levi Stockbridge, President of the College; Hon. Henry C. of Pittsfield; Hon. James S. Grinnell, of Greenfield; Phineas Stennet, of Cincos; Benjamin F. Ware, of Marlboro; O. B. Hadwen, of Worcester; Geo. Noyes, of Boston; and James H. D. of Northampton. In the necessary absence of Hon. Charles L. Flint, Secretary of the Board of Trustees, Geo. Noyes was appointed Pro-tem pro tempore of the meeting.

A letter was then read from Hon. Daniel Needham, one of the Trustees and chairman of the committee on "Permanent Fund," expressing regrets at his constrained absence from the meeting, and conveying suggestions pertinent to the occasion. The letter is as follows:

FAIR NATIONAL BANK.  
Massachusetts Agricultural College.  
Dear Sirs—It is greatly regret that the duties of your committee render it impossible for me to be at Amherst on Friday, December 16th. The plan of the meeting of the Agricultural College is met with many experiments of favor among leading farmers of the State. It is my desire that the committee appointed on the fund, will be able to make a report to you.

Very truly yours, DANIEL NEEDHAM, To Hon. CHARLES L. FLINT, Chairman of the Trustees of the Massachusetts Agricultural College.

Resolved, That the name of the State Grange, by the Worcester Grange, be accepted by the Trustees of the Agricultural College, in their weekly session, for the time being.

Mr. Blaine has signified his acceptance of the invitation of Congress to deliver the eulogy on the late President Garfield.

The Speaker of the House of Representatives has nominated ex-Senator Howe of Wisconsin to be Postmaster General, and the Senate has confirmed the appointment.

With the roll call of the Granges was followed by motions and resolutions, and the appointment of committees. At the close of the meeting, the Grange was adjourned.

The President has nominated ex-Senator Howe of Wisconsin to be Postmaster General, and the Senate has confirmed the appointment.

Business was then regularly proceeded with. The roll call of the Granges was followed by motions and resolutions, and the appointment of committees.

Heavy gales have been blowing on the English and French coasts, as well as on the Atlantic ocean. Our sister, however, the weather has been like Spring more like like Winter.

Forster's Day and the shortest day of the year have passed during the current week. The sun will now begin to turn his course northward again, after resting for a few days.

The confirmation of the President's appointment of Chief Justice Gray of Massachusetts to the bench of the Supreme Court was made at once. This appointment gives universal satisfaction.

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A new railroad project is on foot for an line between Boston and New York, the details of which are given to the public. It looks more feasible than a similar project, over twenty-five years ago.

United States Minister Hurlbut is severely ill. The President has sent a cablegram to the Secretary of State, and the Government sufficient to defray the cost of his repairs, the College buildings being State property, and therefore within State limits.

The earnest interest manifested at the meeting was a satisfactory proof of the stable and prosperous condition of the College, and of the profound confidence held in its future by those to whom it belongs. The steady march of improvement in all departments of the Institution was the theme of general interest. The assignment of a new military instructor to the West Department is having an important effect on the students, and has at once operated like a new inspiration upon that branch of instruction. The Trustees in a body visited the various departments of the College, and the sentiment of the meeting was in the highest degree encouraging. The barn is well

filled with hay and grain, and is wintering about 400 full of blood Ayrshires, all of which with the various appearances and conveniences made an exceptionally fine appearance.

The best minds in the Commonwealth are now enlisted in the rapid development of the aims and objects of the institution, and, with the assurance of its success, which is the green oasis in our black New England land. It will be well to make just as this is the case, to the entire world, the association that draw our hearts to Home, and it likewise helps to wear into and through the long season of Winter, which is the time of the greatest trials of our lives.

— "The Young Men's Christian Association, briefly and concisely, under the name of the Association, is a society of young men who know their value will ever use anything else—Providence Advertiser."

London has seven morning and six evening pages.

— "The Marquis of Hastings, in a speech to his last Saturday, assured his audience that he must refer to observe the arguments of this session of our assembly, that they may be printed in time to prevent their being lost.

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